

WallisAnnenberg
Center for the
Performing Arts

Paul Crewes
Artistic Director

Rachel Fine
Managing Director

PRESENTS

BATTLEFIELD

BASED ON *THE MAHABHARATA* AND THE PLAY
WRITTEN BY JEAN-CLAUDE CARRIÈRE
ADAPTED AND DIRECTED BY
PETER BROOK AND MARIE-HÉLÈNE ESTIENNE

MUSIC BY

Toshi Tsuchitori

COSTUMES BY

Oria Puppo

LIGHTING BY

Philippe Vialatte

STARRING

Karen Aldridge, Jared McNeill, Ery Nzaramba,
and Sean O'Callaghan

MUSICIAN

Toshi Tsuchitori

COMPANY STAGE MANAGER

Thomas Becelewski

MAY 24-28, 2017

Bram Goldsmith Theater

Running Time: 70 minutes with no intermission.

Production C.I.C.T. - Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord
Coproduction The Grotowski Institute, PARCO Co. Ltd / Tokyo,
Les Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg, Young Vic Theatre,
Singapore Repertory Theatre, Le Théâtre de Liège, C.I.R.T., Attiki cultural Society,
Cercle des Partenaires des Bouffes du Nord

US Tour produced by David Eden Productions Ltd.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"The *Mahabharata* is not simply a book, nor a great series of books, it is an immense canvas covering all the aspects of human existence. In it we find all the questions of our lives, in a way that is at once contemporary and urgent. Over many thousands of years the *Mahabharata* shows us, in an always-unexpected way, how to open our eyes to what reality demands. The *Mahabharata* speaks of a great war of extermination, which tears apart the Bharata family. On one side there are 5 brothers, the Pandavas, and on the other side their cousins, the Kauravas, the hundred sons of the blind King Dritarashtra. Both sides use terrible weapons of destruction. At the end the Pandavas win. Millions of dead bodies lie on the ground. And now the eldest of the Pandavas –Yudishtira –is compelled to become King. The victory has the bitter taste of defeat. Both Yudishtira and Dritarashtra, the old King, are in deep distress and remorse, questioning their past actions, trying to unravel their own responsibility for the disaster. How, having to live with this terrible massacre, having lost their sons, their families, their allies, will the new King and the old one find an inner peace? The richness of the language of this timeless epic, and its always astonishing stories, allow us to bring to the stage this situation, which, belonging to the past, reflects at the same time the harsh conflicts of today."

— Peter Brook and Marie-Hélène Estienne



KAREN ALDRIDGE

(Actress) starred in the international tour (2001-2002) of *Le Costume*, also directed by Peter Brook. She originated the role of Mrs. Phelps in the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of *Matilda the Musical* on Broadway. Chicago theatre credits include: Margaret in *Tug of War*, Olivia in *Twelfth Night*, Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth*, Isabelle in *Edward II*, and *Love's Labour's Lost* at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre; *Trinity River Plays* (Joseph Jefferson Award nomination for Best Actress), *The Good Negro*, *The Ballad of Emmett Till*, *The Cook*, and *Proof* (Joseph Jefferson Award nomination for Best Actress) at the Goodman Theatre; *The Qualms*, *Clybourne Park*, and Tracy Letts's Pulitzer Prize nominated *Man from Nebraska* at Steppenwolf Theatre Company, where she originated the role of Tamyra. Other notable Chicago roles include Nina in *Seagull* at Writers' Theatre; *Far Away* and *In the Blood* (Joseph Jefferson Award nomination for Best Actress) at Next Theatre Company. Her regional credits include productions with the Indiana Repertory Theatre, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, American Conservatory Theater, Magic Theatre, Aurora Theatre Company, and Marin Theatre Company. Karen appears in a guest star recurring role as Adele Kipling in the Netflix series *The Get Down* (produced and directed by Baz Luhrmann). Other television & film credits include : Dr. Kendra Perrington on NBC's *Chicago Fire* and *Chicago Med*, Dr. Ella Harris in the Golden Globe-winning series *Boss*, *Blue Bloods* (CBS), *Unforgettable* (CBS), and Ron Howard's *The Dilemma*.



JARED McNEILL (Actor)

trained at Fordham University at Lincoln Center in New York City where, in 2008, he graduated with a degree in Theater and Visual Arts. His first professional role taken that same year, in Chisa Hutchinson's *She Like Girls* at the Lark Theatre. Jared McNeill played various roles in Peter Brook's 11 and 12 and had recently the role of Maphikela in *The Suit*. Since then, he has performed in August Wilson's *Fences* at the Geva Theater Center, and in various chapters of Tarell McCraney's *Brothers/Sisters Trilogy* at Pittsburgh's City Theater, as well as San Francisco's Marin Theater Company and American Conservatory Theater. Most recently, Jared completed work as an understudy in The Roundabout Theater Company's production of Stephen Karam's *Sons of the Prophet*, as well as adopting the role of Desmond in Young Jean Lee's *The Shipment*, and playing in a recent New York production of Bertolt Brecht's *Life of Galileo*, during which he performed musical

numbers on the trombone and harpsichord. Recently he has been on tour with *The Suit* directed by Peter Brook.



ERY NZARAMBA (Actor)

trained as an actor at the Conservatoire Royal de Bruxelles in Belgium and at the Birmingham School of Acting in the United Kingdom. Battlefield is Ery's second production with the Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord, following two world tours of *The Suit*, also directed by Peter Brook and Marie-Hélène Estienne. Ery Nzaramba has twice been awarded a Grant for the Arts by Arts Council England in 2012 and 2015 to write his play *Dream Of A Nation*. A public rehearsed reading took place at the Theatre Royal Stratford East London in July 2015. He wrote the one-man play *Split/Mixed* and wrote and directed the short films *To the Naked Eye* (Legacy Film Festival 2011) and *The Blues Lover* (Portobello Film Festival 2014). He is currently co-writing *Flora & Dambudzo* (working title), a feature film to be shot in 2015, based on the life and work of cult Zimbabwean author Dambudzo Marechera – and Ery will star as Dambudzo. Ery's theatre credits include: *The Suit* (Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord, world tour); *The Bacchae and Blood Wedding* (Royal & Derngate Theatre); *As You Like It* (Curve Theatre); *The Epic Adventure of Nhamo the Manyika Warrior* (Tricycle Theatre/Tiata Fahodzi); *Split/Mixed* (United Solo Theatre Festival in NY); *The Snow Queen* (Trestle Theatre/British Council, India tour); *The Jew of Malta* (Hall for Cornwall); *The Three Musketeers* and *The Tempest* (Unicorn Theatre). His film & TV credits include: *The Gates of Vanity* (feature film, Future Focus Films); *The Bill* (television, ITV); His radio credits includes: *43:59: Yara*, *The Torturers' Tales*, *Ball & Chains*, *When I Lived in Peru* (radio, BBC Radio Drama)



SEAN O'CALLAGHAN

(Actor) comes from Cork in Ireland. He trained at RADA under Hugh Cruttwell. He has just finished working with Alexander Zeldin at London's National Theatre in *Beyond Caring*. He spent five years working at the RSC with directors such as Terry Hands, Michael Bogdanov, Michael Attenborough and Mathew Warchus, and also performed in productions of Shakespeare at the RSC. He appeared in new plays by David Edgar, Anne Devlin and Nick Dear. Sean was in the first new play produced at the new Globe Theatre with Augustines Oak and Abi Morgan's new play *Tender* at The Hampstead Theatre. He is an associate artist with Howard Barker's theatre company the Wrestling School and has worked with them over a sixteen year period touring Europe and Australia.

He spent the early part of his career working with Peter Cheeseman at The New Vic Theatre in Stoke-on-Trent where he continues to work and he is now based in Stoke-on-Trent. Sean has been in productions throughout the UK including Liverpool, Manchester, Belfast, Cardiff, Birmingham, Plymouth and recently worked with director Rachel O'Riordan on Conor McPherson's *The Seafarer* and with John Dove in Edinburgh in Brian Friel's *Faith Healer*. He has won and has also been nominated for a number of theatre awards including The Irish Times Theatre Awards and The Scottish Critics Awards. Sean has worked extensively in Film and TV including *Maria Graham* directed by Valeria Sarmiento, *Bigga Than Ben* directed by Suzie Halewood and won The Granada Film Festival Award for best actor. He recently finished a Canadian TV series called *X Company*

TOSHI TSUCHITORI (Composer and Musician)

was born in Kagawa prefecture of Japan in 1950 and began performing on Japanese traditional drums at an early age. Since the 1970's he has performed internationally with specialists in free improvisation such as Milford Graves, Steve Lacy, Derek Bailey and others. He began working with Peter Brook's theatre group in 1976, and has since created the music for productions including *Ubu*, *The Conference of the Birds*, *L'Os*, *The Mahabharata*, *The Tempest*, *The Tragedy of Hamlet, Eleven and Twelve*, *Tierno Bokar*, and *The Valley of Astonishment*. He studied traditional music from all over the world and for over a decade has been researching the earliest strata of Japanese music and presenting the results as musical performances. He has released a series of three recordings of prehistoric Japanese sounds entitled *Dotaku*, *Sanukaito* and *Jomonko*. Recently he researched and played ancient music in the prehistoric painted cave of France. Tsuchitori also collaborated with the traditional master musician Harue Momoyama since building a studio together in 1988, working both with local villagers and international artists. Toshi has recorded many CDs and has written three books: an autobiography, called *Spiral Arms*, a study of the music of prehistoric Japan, *The Sounds of Jomon*, and *The Sound Of Painted Cave*, about the origins of music

PETER BROOK (Adapter and Director) Peter Brook was born in London in 1925. Throughout his career, he distinguished himself in various genres: theater, opera, cinema and writing. He directed his first play there in 1943. He then went on to direct over 70 productions in London, Paris and New York. His work with the Royal Shakespeare Company includes *Love's Labour's Lost* (1946), *Measure for Measure* (1950), *Titus Andronicus* (1955), *King Lear* (1962), *Marat/Sade* (1964), *US* (1966), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (1970) and *Antony and*

Cleopatra (1978). In 1971, he founded with Micheline Rozan the International Centre for Theatre Research in Paris and in 1974, opened its permanent base in the Bouffes du Nord Theatre. There, he directed *Timon of Athens*, *The Iks*, *Ubu aux Bouffes*, *Conference of the Birds*, *L'Os*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *The Mahabharata*, *Woza Albert!*, *The Tempest*, *The Man Who, Qui est là*, *Happy Days*, *Je suis un Phénomène*, *Le Costume*, *The Tragedy of Hamlet*, *Far Away*, *La Mort de Krishna*, *Ta Main dans la Mienne*, *The Grand Inquisitor*, *Tierno Bokar*, *Sizwe Banzi*, *Fragments*, *Warum Warum*, *Love is my Sin*, *11 and 12*, *Une Flûte Enchantée* (opera) and lately *The Suit* (2012), *The Valley of* (2014) – many of these performing both in French and English. In opera, he directed *La Bohème*, *Boris Godounov*, *The Olympians*, *Salomé* and *Le Nozze de Figaro* at Covent Garden; *Faust* and *Eugene Onegin* at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, *La Tragédie de Carmen* and *Impressions de Pelleas*, at the Bouffes du Nord, Paris and Don Giovanni for the Aix en Provence Festival. Peter Brook's autobiography, *Threads of Time*, was published in 1998 and joins other titles including *The Empty Space* (1968) – translated into over 15 languages, *The Shifting Point* (1987), *There are no Secrets* (1993), *Evoking (and Forgetting) Shakespeare* (1999) and *The Quality of Mercy* (2014). His films include *Moderato Cantabile* (1959), *Lord of the Flies* (1963), *Marat/Sade* (1967), *Tell me Lies* (1967), *King Lear* (1969), *Meetings with Remarkable Men* (1976), *The Mahabharata* (1989) and *The Tragedy of Hamlet* (2002, TV).

MARIE-HÉLÈNE ESTIENNE (Adapter and Director) In 1974, she worked with Peter Brook on the casting for *Timon of Athens*, and consequently joined the Centre International de Créations Théâtrales (CICT) for the creation of *Ubu aux Bouffes* in 1977. She was Peter Brook's assistant on *La tragédie de Carmen*, *Le Mahabharata*, and collaborated to the staging of *The Tempest*, *Impressions de Pelléas*, *Woza Albert!* and *La tragédie d'Hamlet* (2000). She worked on the dramaturgy of *Qui est là*. With Peter Brook, she co-authored *L'homme quiand Je suis un phénomène* shown at the Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord. She wrote the French adaptation of the Can Themba's play *Le costume*, and *Sizwe Bansi est mort*, by authors Athol Fugard, John Kani, and Winston Ntshona. In 2003 she wrote the French and English adaptations of *Le Grand inquisiteur – The Grand Inquisitor* based on Dostoevsky's *Brothers Karamazov*. She was the author of *Tierno Bokarin* 2005, and of the English adaptation of *Eleven and Twelve* by Amadou Hampaté Ba in 2009. With Peter Brook, she co-directed *Fragments*, five short pieces by Beckett, and again with Peter Brook and composer Franck Krawczyk, she freely adapted Mozart and Schikaneder's *Die Zauberflöte* into *Une flûte*

enchantée. She shares in the creation *The Suit* in 2012 and *The Valley of Astonishment* in 2013.

PHILIPPE VIALATTE (Lighting Designer) started at the Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord in 1985 as a light operator on *Le Mahabharata*, also directed by Peter Brook. He assisted Jean Kalman for the light design of *Woza Albert!* and *La Tempête*, directed by Peter Brook. Since the creation of *The Man Who* in Paris in 1993, he has designed the lights for Peter Brook's plays in the Theatre des Bouffes du Nord. *Qui est là*, *Je suis un phénomène*, *Le Costume*, *The Tragedy of Hamlet*, *Far Away*, *La mort de Krishna*, *La Tragédie d'Hamlet*, *Ta main dans la mienne*, *Tierno Bokar*, *Le Grand Inquisiteur*, *Sizwe Banzi est mort*, *Fragments*, *11 and 12*, and recently *A Magic Flute*, *The Suit*, and *Valley of Astonishment*. He travels with all these plays on tour and in each space redesigns and adapts the lights to each show.

ORIA PUPPO (Costume Designer) Stage and costume designer, Oria Puppo works between Buenos-Aires and Paris. In Argentina, she has created sets and costumes for directors like Diego Kogan (*Martha Stutz* by Javier Daulte), Rafael Spregelburd (*Modesty* by Rafael Spregelburd), Roberto Villanueva (*Queen of the Night* by Thomas Bernhard), *The Goldberg Variations* by George Tabori, *Ciro Zorzoli (State of Wrath* after Henrik Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler*) and Alejandro Tantanian (*Travellers that die* by D. Veronese, *Knives in Hens* by David Harrower or *Los mansos* by Alejandro Tantanian after Dostoevsky's *The Idiot*). She also worked as technical director for the Buenos Aires International Festival from 1999 to 2007. Oria Puppo has also taken part in Alejandro Tantanian's creation of *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare (Théâtre de Lucerne, Suisse), for Tiziano Manca's *La Gabbia opera* (Stuttgart Theater, Allemagne) and for *Amerika* after Franz Kafka and *Threpenny Opera* by Bertolt Brecht (National Theatre of Mannheim). For the Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord, she participates as technical director in works by Peter Brook and Marie-Hélène Estienne, *Tierno Bokar* from the novel by Amadou Ampathé Bâ, Mozart's *A Magic Flute* (co-created with Franck Krawczyk) and as costume co-designer for *The Suit* based on the novel by Can Themba. Recently, she did the decor for Haendel's *Resurrection* directed by Lilo Baur at the Paris Opera Atelier Lyrique and sets and costumes for Jean Genet's *Majds* directed by *Ciro Zorzoli* with Marilú Marini in Buenos-Aires.

DAVID EDEN PRODUCTIONS LTD (US Tour Producer) has been one of the leading American organizations devoted to producing international work in the US for over 30 years. Most recently, DEP has produced tours for Druid Theatre, Bouffes du Nord, Maly Drama Theatre, Théâtre de la Ville, Ensemble Basiani from Republic of Georgia, Gate Theatre Dublin, and Batsheva Dance Company.

DEP has produced tours for The Public Theatre, Martha Clarke, Declan Donnellan, Propeller, Rezo Gabriadze, Piccolo Teatro di Milano, London's Royal Court Theatre, Russian Patriarchate Choir of Moscow, State Ballet of Georgia, plus Bolshoi and worked on special projects with John F Kennedy Center for the Arts, Lincoln Center, American Dance Festival, and Jacob's Pillow.

Producer: David Eden
General Manager: Pat Kirby
Production Consultant: Chris Buckley - P&PFC, Inc
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